

Message Text

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SUBJECT: INQUIRIES CONCERNING U.S. LABOR PARTY

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REFERENCE: LONDON 19814

1. THE U.S. LABOR PARTY, APPARENTLY FOUNDED IN 1973, WAS
DESCRIBED BY THE NEW YORK TIMES OF SEPTEMBER 6, 1976 AS
"...A MARXIST SPINOFF OF THE STUDENT RADICAL MOVEMENT OF
THE 1960'S." FOR THE FIRST TIME IT COMPETED IN A NATIONAL

ELECTION LAST NOVEMBER BY FIELDING A CANDIDATE, ITS CHAIRMAN LYNDON H. LAROCHE, FOR THE PRESIDENCY. ACCORDING TO THE SAME NEW YORK TIMES REPORT OF AN INTERVIEW WITH LAROCHE (SOMETIMES ALSO IDENTIFIED AS LYN MARCUS), HIS PARTY EXPECTED TO ATTRACT "...URBAN BLUE-COLLAR UNION MEMBERS, BLACKS FROM ORGANIZED LABOR RATHER THAN THE GHETTO, 'ANGRY COUNTER-CULTURE' SUPPORTERS OF GOV. GEORGE C. WALLACE OF ALABAMA AND RANK-AND-FILE UNION MEMBERS WHO 'HATE CARTER.'"

2. ALTHOUGH THE PARTY REPORTEDLY SOUGHT TO GET ON THE BALLOT OF ALL 50 STATES, IT APPARENTLY QUALIFIED IN ONLY 24. FINAL ELECTION FIGURES HAVE NOT YET BEEN COMPILED BUT DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS THAT UNOFFICIAL ESTIMATES INDICATE THE PARTY RECEIVED IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF 40,000 VOTES NATIONALLY, THE LEAST OF ANY OF THE 8 MINOR PARTY

CANDIDATES.

3. WITH RESPECT TO INQUIRIES FROM THE BRITISH LABOR MOVEMENT, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT LAROCHE IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE SO-CALLED NATIONAL CAUCUS OF LABOR COMMITTEES (NCLC), DESCRIBED BY THE NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE QUOTED ABOVE AS "...A POLITICAL GROUP AFFILIATED WITH THE PARTY." THE NCLC APPEARS TO HAVE NEITHER ORGANIZATIONAL TIES NOR ANY MEANINGFUL BASE IN THE BROAD MAINSTREAM OF THE AMERICAN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. ITS LITERATURE CONTAINS VITRIOLIC ATTACKS AGAINST THE LEADERSHIP OF THE AFL-CIO AND THE UAW.

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4. AN INDICATION OF THE AFL-CIO'S PERCEPTION OF THE NCLC IS PROVIDED BY A STORY APPEARING IN THE AFL-CIO NEWS OF APRIL 19, 1975, DATED IN YORK, PENNSYLVANIA AND CAPTIONED "EXTREMIST GROUP MOUNTS CAMPAIGN TO DISRUPT LOCAL LABOR PROGRAMS." IT DESCRIBED HOW "A HANDFUL OF SELF-STYLED 'REVOLUTIONARIES' UNDER THE BANNER OF THE SO-CALLED U.S. LABOR PARTY HAS MOUNTED A SICK CAMPAIGN OF OBSCENE LEAFLETS, DISRUPTION OF UNION MEETINGS SHOUTING PROFANITIES, AND PERSONAL HARASSMENT OF THE AREA'S UNION LEADERS."

5. THE FOLLOWING ARE ADDITIONAL QUOTES FROM THE AFL-CIO NEWS STORY:

"THE 'LABOR PARTY,' WITH NO TIES TO THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT, HAS GAINED A CERTAIN NOTORIETY BY SENDING PEOPLE WITH PHONEY PRESS CREDENTIALS TO UNION MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF TRYING TO DISRUPT MEETINGS WITH SHOUTS

AND NAME-CALLING.

THE AFL-CIO EARLIER THIS YEAR WARNED AFFILIATES OF SOME OF THE 'FRONT' NAMES USED BY THE GROUP IN SEEKING PRESS CREDENTIALS AND THE AUTO WORKERS SUED TO PREVENT THE U.S. LABOR PARTY FROM CALLING ITS PUBLICATION 'NEW SOLIDARITY' IN AN OBVIOUS ATTEMPT TO CONFUSE IT WITH THE UAW'S NEWSPAPER, 'SOLIDARITY.'"

6. ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE TACTICS USED BY THE U.S. LABOR PARTY IS CONTAINED IN A NOTICE CIRCULATED IN NOVEMBER, 1974 BY THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS SERVICE ADDRESSED TO ALL U.S. GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICES CALLING ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT OFFICES HAD RECENTLY BEEN CONTACTED BY INDIVIDUALS CLAIMING TO BE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS SERVICE BUT THAT IN FACT THOSE PERSONS HAD NO SUCH CONNECTION. THE NOTICE CONTINUES AS FOLLOWS:
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"OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THESE PERSONS ARE ACTUALLY CONNECTED WITH A LEFTIST ORIENTED GROUP KNOWN AS THE U.S. LABOR PARTY WHO HAS A DIVISION CALLED NEW SOLIDARITY INTERNATIONAL PRESS SERVICE BUT THEY HAVE BEEN DROPPING THE WORDS NEW SOLIDARITY IN SEEKING THEIR INTERVIEWS.

WE ARE TAKING LEGAL STEPS TO PREVENT THE FURTHER MISUSE OF OUR CORPORATE NAME BY THESE PERSONS AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONS AND SHOULD THERE BE ANY QUESTION CONCERNING ANYONE WHO REPRESENTS THEMSELF AS BEING FROM OUR OFFICE PLEASE ASK FOR IDENTIFICATION OR CALL US FOR VERIFICATION."

7. THE NCLC HAS SOUGHT TO PROMOTE AN EUROPEAN PRESENCE THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT IN SEVERAL EUROPEAN CITIES OF CELLS OR "CHAPTERS" OF WHAT IT CALLS THE EUROPEAN LABOR COMMITTEE (ELC). THE ELC, IN TURN, IS REPORTED TO HAVE ESTABLISHED A "PARTY" (EUROPEAN LABOR PARTY) IN THE FRG AND PRESENTED CANDIDATES IN A FEW LOCAL ELECTIONS. MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE NCLC AND ITS MANIFESTATIONS ABROAD, PARTICULARLY IN EUROPE, ARE PROVIDED IN STATES' CIRCULAR A-1568 OF 18 MARCH, 1976 (CONFIDENTIAL) ON THE SUBJECT "NATIONAL CAUCUS OF LABOR COMMITTEES (NCLC).#

8. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO DRAW UPON THE INFORMATION QUOTED ABOVE IN ANSWERING INQUIRIES. IN ADDITION, THE LABOR ATTACHE MAY FIND IT USEFUL TO SUGGEST TO SOME TRADE UNION INQUIRERS THAT THEY CONSULT THE AFL-CIO INTERNATIONAL

DEPARTMENT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND ADVICE.
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